

REMARKS

Claims 15-52 are pending. The Applicants thank Examiner Wong for the suggestions in the Official Action regarding editorial clarifications to the claims. These suggestions have now been adopted, appearing in the amended claims above. The formulae for Ib and Vb have been amended to correspond to those previously appearing in the claims. As indicated in the Amendment filed June 24, 2003, support for the corrections to formulas Ib and Vb is found the substituent definitions in formula (I) and (V)—see e.g., original Claim 1. Favorable consideration and allowance of this application is now respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 23, 25, 35, 37, 41, 42, 47 and 49 were objected to as containing various informalities. These objections are moot in view of the amendments above.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Claims 15-28 and 41-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as lacking adequate written description. The concern was that the specification did not adequately describe the phrase “at least one metal salt (S)” as used in Claims 15, 41 and 42. Multiple cations of metal salts are described on page 5, lines 35-45, of the specification. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the phrase “at least one metal salt” has ample support in the specification as filed. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 15-28, 32-34, 36-38, 42-46, and 48-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Applicants submit that these rejections are moot in view of the amended claim language.

Allowable Subject Matter

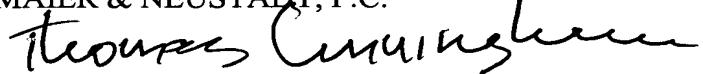
The Applicants thank Examiner Wong for indicating that the subject matter of Claims 15-28, with the exception of the issues raises above, is otherwise in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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